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Approved For Release 2000/08/26 : CIA-RDP60-00346R000200100030-6

Recommendations and Problems, Monthly Reports for the Month of
September 1957

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

The past few months have shown a noticeable increase in the amount of work at the reproduction plants. As of 30 September, over 200 map printing jobs submitted via D/GC remained in the plants.

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH

The current shortage of personnel in the branch is beginning to show up already in a reduced flow of work from the branch. The Branch is now one short of its authorized strength and will continue to be so for some time to come as there is no replacement in sight. In addition, one person has been finally detached to go on an extended period of training and has also been in an essentially non-productive status (cartographically speaking) for some time.

Europe-Africa Compilation Branch

Chief, GC/E, informally solicited opinions from two members of D/GG regarding the possible production of a "Petroleum Atlas". The basic idea is to produce an atlas showing the petroleum picture as the intelligence community knows it, (in contrast to the commercial version), and in a form (ready reference) usable by intelligence officers not specifically responsible for petroleum.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

None reported

PHOTO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

None reported.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

Following receipt of the memorandum from Ch/G concerning the report on Novaya Zemlya, the Chief of the Editing and Review Staff suggests that "the next report or issue of the Geographic Intelligence Review that warrants major criticism be used as the basis for a conference on the content and focus of D/GG reports. Although the Division Chief and those Branch Chiefs who have discussed the problem with Ch/G have tried to convey his concepts to the editors, it is not as effective as personal contact. A group meeting, in which all Branch Chiefs and the Editor-in-Chief would participate, is recommended as the best way of insuring that all of us have the same understanding and function of D/GG reports."

The inefficient method of coordinating Army NIS contributions, imposed by ACSI, is a continuing problem. Questions raised by D/GG coordinators pass through so many channels that the point of the question is often lost and the answer is meaningless or unclear. All attempts to resolve this problem have been unsuccessful.

EUROPE BRANCH

The plan to prepare duplicate overlays of Czech and East German border installations on a new transparent material for periodic updating did not turn out as well as desired. The original tracings from the field offices will have to be redrafted by D/GC before the reproductions can be made. A memorandum was drafted [REDACTED] 25X1A9a explaining the situation.

FAR EAST BRANCH

It is becoming increasingly apparent, in our opinion, that there is a need for some vehicle to provide for the prompt issuance of self-initiated geographic intelligence items that are of timely interest but that do not have the "impact appeal" that has come to be associated with the GM. The article on Cambodian-Vietnamese tensions in the Gulf of Siam is surely a case in point. Originally conceived as a possible GM, it was decided by higher authority that the article was not appropriate for issuance as a GM. Our only alternative, since the article was self-initiated and thus failed to qualify as a G/I or G/E, was to include it as an item in the next MR issue. As is well-known, the MR is not a quick means of getting geographic intelligence items to an appropriate audience. Thus, the article in question will have lost some of its time value by the time the MR is finally disseminated. Further, it can be argued that the article may suffer from being included with numerous other items in a periodical rather than standing by itself as an intelligence issuance. Unless the standards for GM's" are revised, it would appear that our best vehicle for the type of issuance we have in mind would be a modification of the G/I - G/E concept to permit prompt self-initiated issuances of sound, if not dramatic, items of timely geographic intelligence interest. It is recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of such a series as one of the standard D/GG intelligence publication series.

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF

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The major problem facing the Staff is the securing of a replacement for [REDACTED]. One possibility that at first seemed excellent will probably not remain with the Agency more than 6 months to a year. Another possible candidate was interviewed unofficially. She seems like a good prospect that should be followed up. Both editors were favorable impressed by her.

Staff [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

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We feel an attempt should be made at an early date to work out a modus operandi with State that will secure for D/GG a continuing role in territorial studies research. If this is not done, we fear the function will move completely and irrevocably back to State, and that in the years ahead, the Division will have much reason to regret the shift. We cannot view the loss of TS business with [REDACTED] "good riddance" equanimity, because it is becoming apparent that many vital geographic problems of the next 15 years are going to concern submerged lands. For example, offshore defense installations on man-made islands; oil and mineral exploitation; limits of continental shelves; access rights to continental shelves, and the clash of such rights with traditional concepts of territorial waters. These and related problems are being pushed toward the acute stage by fast improving methods and equipment for setting up' offshore oil rigs and/or man-made islands. It is now possible to drill for oil in water 100' deep and equipment will soon be available which will permit work at 300'. Ere long, drilling at still greater depths may be possible. Each increase in working depth means new defense sites, new oil and mineral lands, and new and vexatious sovereignty problems.